

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, wherein the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display, comprising:

- 5 a point-of-sale (POS) register in which food orders are entered;
a plurality of voice operated audible order modules, each module including:
- 10 a memory for storing a POS entry,
a text-to-speech synthesizer for converting the POS entries into audible speech, and
a speech-to-text circuit for recognizing and converting voice commands into control signals;
a router connected between said POS register and said voice operated audible order modules for selectively routing said POS register to a particular one of said modules;
- 15 a plurality of sets of microphones and headphones; and
a wireless link respectively coupling said plurality of microphone and headphone sets to one of said voice operated audible order modules, whereby a restaurant worker speaks an audible command into a microphone and receives on headphones an audible synthesized voice reciting an order entered into said POS register without the worker having to view any visual display.
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2. A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, wherein the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display, comprising:

- 25 a point-of-sale (POS) register in which food orders are entered;
a voice operated audible order module coupled to said POS register, said module including:
- 30 a memory for storing a POS order,
a text-to-speech synthesizer for converting the POS entries into audible speech, and

a speech-to-text circuit for recognizing and converting voice commands into control signals;

a microphone and headphone,

5 a wireless link coupling said microphone and headphone to said voice operated audible order module, whereby a restaurant worker speaks an audible command into said microphone and receives on said headphone an audible synthesized voice reciting an order entered into said POS register without having to view any visual display.

3. A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, wherein
10 the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display, comprising:

a point-of-sale (POS) register;

a voice operated audible order modules coupled to said POS register,
said module including:

15 a memory,

a text-to-speech synthesizer coupled to said memory, and

a speech-to-text circuit;

a microphone and headphone; and

a wireless link respectively coupling said microphone to the input of said
20 speech-to-text circuit and said headphone to the output of said text-to-speech synthesizer.

4. The voice activated audible order system of Claim 3, wherein said voice
operated audible order module includes an intelligence circuit coupled to said memory,
said intelligence circuit responsive to spoken commands to go back to a previous stored
25 order or to advance to a subsequently stored order.

5. A voice activated order systems comprising:

a point-of-sale register;

a computer memory coupled to said point-of-sale register and
storing a plurality of orders entered into said point-of-sale register;

30 a speech recognition circuit responsive to audible commands spoken into
a microphone and operatively coupled to said memory;

a speech synthesizer coupled to said memory for converting a stored order into speech when a predetermined command is spoken into said microphone; and

a set of headphones or the like connected to said speech synthesizer.

5 6. The voice activated order system of Claim 5, wherein a radio link connects to said microphone and said headphones respectively to said speech recognition circuit and said speech synthesizer.

7. A voice activated order method for a fast food restaurant in which the food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display comprising:
10 entering food orders into a point-of-sale (POS) register;
 temporarily storing as digital data said entered food orders;
 said food preparer worker speaking an audible command into a microphone;
 recognizing said command to connect said command into a control
15 signal; and

 using said control signal to initiate converting stored digital data relating to a food order into synthesized speech audibly transmitted to said food preparer.

8. The method of Claim 7, including automatically diverting certain orders so that all POS entries are not ultimately received by a single food preparer worker but
20 or instead filled by at least one other worker.

9. The method of Claim 8, including automatically routing each of said food orders to a selected one of a plurality of temporary data storage memories.

10. A voice activated order method comprising:
 storing a plurality of orders in a computer memory;
25 recognizing an audible command; and
 causing a stored order in said computer memory to be supplied to a speech synthesizer.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said audible commands include short one-syllable words, such as GO, AGAIN, BACK, NEW.

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